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OVERVIEW OF PSYCHOLOGICAL CLIMATE IN SINO-U.S. RELATIONS

o   China views itself as the conservator of communist doctrine.

o   Historical fear of "chaos" is a driving force behind Communist Party efforts to maintain power.

   -- The events of Tiananmen Square in June 1989 are seen as the type of chaos that can occur when political control weakens.

   -- Events in Eastern Europe and the CIS are also seen as China's future if the Communist Party does not maintain control.

o   Talk of a "new world order" is viewed as a U.S.-led conspiracy to undermine the Communist Party's legitimacy.

   -- In contrast to official hostility and misgivings about U.S. intentions, the Chinese people remain overwhelmingly pro-American.

o   Fear of "peaceful evolution" (defined as a U.S.-inspired plot to bring about the fall of communism through peaceful means) is a driving force behind China's attempts to tightly control the domestic situation and relations with the outside world.

   -- Despite views of China as a monolithic dictatorship, these attempts at control meet with irregular results. Economic reform has brought a decentralization of authority.

o   U.S. concern over human rights and China's [   ] reaction to what is perceived as meddling in its internal affairs continues to be a major point of friction.

o   As tragic as the events of Tiananmen were, China has not fallen back into a long night of political terror.

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   -- Market forces have an irrestible impact on society and political discourse.

   -- Factories, service enterprises, universities and research institutes all use computers, fax machines, cellular telephones and communications networks. People using these devices learn that technology is not politically neutral.

   -- Thousands of Chinese still travel abroad, bringing new ideas with them when they return.

o   U.S. elections later this year, at almost the same time as the fourteenth national Communist Party conference, will provide a stark juxtaposition of our two systems.

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